[Translation]

Telephone Rent

1012. SHRIMATI KETAKI DEVI SINGH :
KUMARI UMA BHARATI :
SHRI PANKAJ CHOWDHARY :

Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether any proposal to hike the bi-monthly telephone rent or the rates of telephone calls is under consideration of the Government;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) the time by which a final decision is likely to be taken in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) There is no such proposal.

(b) and (c) Do not arise in view of (a) above.

[English]

Fault Repair Facility in Shakti Nagar Exchange

1013. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) the measures taken by the Government to improve the functioning of fault repair service in the Shakti Nagar Telephone Exchange in Delhi where telephone fault complaints are not attended for several days;

(b) whether any action has been taken against the officers responsible for dereliction of duty; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) Following steps have been taken for improving the functioning of Fault repair service at Shakti Nagar Telephone exchange in Delhi :-

(i) FRS system is computerised.

(ii) Auto testing of faults booked has been introduced.

(b) There has been no intentional delay by any officer in attending to faults. Delay in rectification, however, occurs in case of cable thefts and their breakdowns. The monitoring of fault rectification process is done upto the highest level.

(c) Does not arise in view of (b) above.

Shops in Post Offices

1014. SHRI MOHAN RAWALE : Will the Minister of COMMUNICATIONS be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Department of Posts has taken a policy decision for opening of shops within the precincts of Post Offices;

(b) if so, the salient features thereof;

(c) the annual income likely to accrue to the Government as a result thereof;

(d) the number of shops opened so far and the locations thereof;

(e) whether more such shops are proposed to be opened in future; and

(f) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF COMMUNICATIONS (SHRI BENI PRASAD VARMA) : (a) and (b) Details of the scheme are given in the enclosed *statement*-I

(c) Annual income of approximately Rs. 1654188 will accrue to the Govt. from post shops already opened so far.

(d) 26 Post Shops have been opened so far. The details are given in enclosed statement-II

(e) and (f) More Post shops may be opened progressively subject to fulfilment of criteria as defined in enclosed *statement*-I

Statement-I

Details of the Scheme for Post Shop

(1) Post shops can be opened in post offices functioning in Departmental buildings where adequate space is available.

(2) Proposals/tenders are invited from members of the public for opening such post shops. These are examined by a committee comprising Chief Post Master General, Circle Internal Financial Adviser and Supdt. Engineer (Civil).

(3) All things being equal, the highest bid in terms of remuneration offered in return for opening the post shop is accepted.

(4) The expenditure for erection of any counter etc. for operating the post shop is to be borne by the selected applicant.

(5) The post shop functions during office hours of the post office.

Statement-II

S.No.	Circle	Location	No. of Post Shops
1	2	3	4
1.	Andhra Pradesh	Warangal Head Post Office.	2
2.	Assam	Guwahati G.P.O.	1
3.	Delhi	Parliament Street H.O. New Delhi-1	2

1	2	3	4
		Sarojini Nagar H.O. New Delhi-23	2
		Indraprasth H.O. New Delhi-2	2
		Karol Bagh, New Delhi-5	1
		Delhi GPO, Delhi-6	1
		Chankyapuri, New Delhi	1
		Eastern Court, New Delhi	1
		Golf Links Post Office New Delhi-3	1
		Lodi Road Head Office New Delhi-3	1
		Lajpat Nagar, New Delhi	1
		New Delhi G.P.O. New Delhi-1	1
		Krishna Nagar Head Office, Delhi-51	1
		Ashok Vihar Head Office Delhi-52	1
4.	Karnataka	Bangalore G.P.O.	1
5.	Maharashtra	Azad Nagar Post Office	1
		Mahim Head Post Office	1
		Matunga Post Office	1
6.		Chennai G.P.O.	1
		Madurai H.O.	1
		Madurai Palace	1
		Total	26

Shut Down of Blast Furnaces of Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants

1015. SHRIMATI GEETA MUKHERJEE : Will the Minister of STEEL be pleased to state :

(a) whether the Steel Authority of India Limited (SAIL) has shut down two of its blast furnaces in Bokaro and Bhilai Steel Plants; and

(b) if so, the details and reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STEEL AND MINISTER OF MINES (SHRI BIRENDRA PRASAD BAISHYA) : (a) and (b) One blast furnace in Bokaro Steel Plant has been shut down and another in Bhilai Steel Plant is to be shut down in February, 1997. The Plants propose to carry out capital repairs in these blast furnaces.

Udhampur-Jammu to Katra-Srinagar Railway line

1016. SHRI MANGAT RAM SHARMA : Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state :

(a) whether a target was fixed for completion of Rail line between Udhampur-Jammu to Katra-Srinagar; and

(b) if so, the details thereof and the reason for delay in completion of work alongwith the cost escalation in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI SATPAL MAHARAJ) : (a) No, Sir. The target for completion of the project from Udhampur to Baramula via Katra and Srinagar has not yet been fixed.

(d) Does not arise.

[Translation]

Wages to Women Labourers

1017. SHRIMATI SHEELA GAUTAM : Will the Minister of LABOUR be pleased to state :

(a) whether any survey has been conducted by the Government about the number of women labourers in the country;

(b) if so, the outcome thereof, State-wise;

(c) whether women labourers are given minimum wages; and

(d) if not, the steps taken by the Government for their upliftment and for prevention of exploitaion by their employers?

THE MINISTER OF LABOUR (SHRI M. ARUNACHALAM) : (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) The findings of the survey have been published by the Office of the Regictrar General and Census Commissioner of India in the Union Primary Census Abstract, 1991. State-wise numbers of women workers are indicated in the enclosed statement.

(c) The Government have enacted laws to ensure payment of equal wages to men and women. Under the Minimum Wages Act, 1948, fixation of equal minimum wages for men and women in different employments is prescribed. The Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 further prohibits discrimination on grounds of sex between men and women workers in the same establishment or employment and for the same work or work of similar nature.

(d) Whenever any instances of violation of the Minimum Wages Act, 1948 or Equal Remuneration Act, 1976 come to the notice of the Government, necessary steps are taken immediately to rectify the situation. Periodic monitoring of the enforcement activities is carried out. Various programmes for the upliftment of women labourers are also being carried out by the upliftment of women labourers are also being carried out by the Government.